

## ◆ Installation ◆

### GENERAL

Uniclic® is a revolutionary system for installing laminate floors without using glue. The panels can be clicked together simply, thanks to the ingenious shape of the tongue and groove. Uniclic® is unique because you can install the planks in two different ways:

#### **Method A: Angle-In Installation. RECOMMENDED FOR MOST AREAS**

Position the plank to be installed at an angle of 20° to 30° to the plank already installed. Move the plank gently up and down while applying forward pressure. The plank will automatically click into place. You can either insert the tongue into the groove or the groove onto the tongue. See Diagrams **1A-1B-1C**.

#### **Method B: Flat Installation. USE WHEN METHOD A CANNOT BE USED**

With Uniclic® you can also tap the planks into each other without lifting using a Uniclic® tapping block (sold separately). To avoid damaging the planks, tap them together gradually with the tapping block flat on the floor. See **Diagrams 2A-2B**. Use this method only in cases where you are unable to use the Angle-In method (see above). The rest of your floor should be installed using the Angle-In method.

### TOOLS FOR INSTALLING THE FLOOR

For best results, follow the installation instructions above. In addition to the regular tools for installing laminate floors (i.e. hammer, saw, pencil, tape measure, level), you will also need the following accessories:

Installation kit (pull bar, spacers and Uniclic®-adapted tapping block)

UniFix® tool (optional)

Saw: Cut pattern side-down when using a jigsaw, sabre saw or circular saw. Cut pattern side-up when using a laminate cutter, handsaw, table saw or crosscut saw.

Underlayment system

Finishing moldings

100% silicone sealant

10 FOCUS POINTS

Thanks to the Uniclic® system, the floor floats and is installed without glue. You can walk on the floor during and immediately after installation.

With the Uniclic® system, you can choose where you want to begin. Consider the easiest way to install the floor. For example, installation for right-handed people is optimal from left to right.

Make sure the planks are mixed sufficiently so that you do not end up with too many identical light or dark planks next to each other.

Check all planks in daylight before and during installation. Do not use any defective planks.

The floor should be installed parallel to the light entering the room. The required conditions are 60°-85°F at a relative humidity of 35-65%.

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Acclimation: All 7mm products must acclimate for 48 hours in its sealed packaging in the middle of the room where it is to be installed. Under normal conditions\*, all other flooring requires no acclimation period. Outside of the normal conditions, let the planks acclimate for 48 hours in the unopened packaging at the normal room temperature in the middle of the room where the floor is to be installed.

\*Normal conditions means a difference of no more than 25°F and 20% relative humidity between the stocking/transportation environment of the flooring and the final installation environment of the flooring.

Room humidity varies according to season, so it is vital that the floor is able to expand and contract. Be sure to leave a 3/8-inch minimum expansion joint on all sides of the floor, around pipes, thresholds, under doors and around any fixed objects (floor vents, kitchen islands, etc.).

Large rooms must have expansion joints every 40 feet width-wise to the planks and every 40 feet length-wise. An expansion joint is recommended between different rooms (e.g. under the door). Expansion joints can be finished by means of a molding that is attached to the subfloor.

Ensure that the end joints of the planks in two successive rows are never in line. Always ensure that the joints are staggered by at least 6 inches.

We recommend you purchase extra cartons in case you have some damaged pieces, miscalculate the room size, cut any pieces incorrectly or need replacement planks for future repairs.

### **PREPARING THE ROOM**

Mix planks from different cartons when installing to maximize the natural look of the floor.

Check that the doors can still open and close after the floor has been installed (minimum 3/8-inch).

Check whether the existing molding can be removed. You can also leave the wall base and finish the floor with accessory profiles.

Make sure the subfloor is flat. Any unevenness greater than 1/16-inch over the length of 40 inches must be smoothed out.

Make sure the subfloor is clean, dry and stable.

Flooring may be installed over radiant heat systems following special installation instructions. Contact your retailer for further details.

### **CONCRETE SUBFLOOR**

The moisture content of the concrete must be less than 5 lb/24 hr per 1000 sq ft (ASTM F1869) or <80% with an in situ probe (ASTM F2170). Always use underlayment and a minimum 6-mil poly moisture barrier if a moisture barrier is not attached to the underlayment.

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**New Construction:** A new concrete floor must dry at least 1 week per 3/8-inch thickness up to 1-1/2 inches. Thicknesses over 1-1/2 inches require twice as much drying time. For example, a 2-1/2-inch concrete subfloor must dry for at least 8 weeks.

**Renovation:** Remove any damp-porous floor covering (carpet, needle felt, etc.) first. Damp-sealed floor covering (PVC, linoleum, VCT, etc.) does not have to be removed.

### **WOODEN SUBFLOOR**

Remove any existing damp-porous floor covering first.

Make sure the sub floor is stable. Nail down any loose areas and apply a leveling layer if necessary.

Install the Uniclic® planks crosswise to the direction of the existing subfloor.

For installations over a crawl space, the soil in the crawl space must be covered by a 6-mil non-recycled polyethylene film with seams overlapping at least 8 inches. In addition, vents should be located throughout the foundation. They must provide good cross ventilation and no dead air space. There must be minimum vent openings equal to 1.5% of the square footage within the crawl space. For example, 100 sq ft of crawl space must have at least 1.5 sq ft of open vents.

The moisture content of the wood may not exceed 12%.

### **INSTALLING THE FLOOR**

First install the underlayment. See Diagram 3A. If the underlayment is pre-mounted on the planks, use a damp-proof moisture barrier with water resistant adhesive tape. For concrete, let the moisture barrier run up the wall before cutting to size. A molding will be attached to this later. For wood, cut the moisture barrier 1 inch from the wall.

Begin the first row with a whole plank. First saw off the tongue on both the long and the short sides. See Diagram 3B.

Place the planks with sawn-off sides against the walls. Put spacers from the installation kit between the planks and the wall. This will ensure that your expansion joint is wide enough: 3/8-inch. See Diagram 3C.

The diagrams indicate where the Uniclic® planks are clicked together by angling up and down or where they are tapped together flat. Follow the diagrams precisely. See Diagrams 4A—4F. For better results, the floor should be installed with a staggered random length for the starting planks in each row - be careful not to create a repeating pattern. For example, start the first row with a whole plank, second row with 1/3 of a plank, third row with 2/3 of a plank, then a whole, then 1/2, then 1/4, then back to whole, then short, then medium, etc. Alternating the length of the starting plank on each row will avoid creating a zigzag or stair step pattern in the floor.

In places where it is too difficult to install the Uniclic® planks with the tapping block (e.g. against the wall), you can tap them together using the pull bar and a hammer. See Diagrams 5A-5B-5C.

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There must be a 3/8-inch expansion joint between the last row and the wall. The width of the final row planks must be a minimum of 2 inches wide. Keep this in mind when sawing the last row of planks.

### INSTALLATION IN WET AREAS

Since prolonged water exposure could damage your laminate flooring, the following installation recommendations should be closely followed to validate your residential water warranty. Wet areas would include, but are not limited to: bathrooms, powder rooms, kitchens, mud rooms, foyers, and laundry rooms. Neither flooring planks nor accessories are recommended for applications with extreme humidity. The water warranty excludes all products thinner than 5/16-inch and does not apply to beveled edge products when used in bathrooms. An expansion area of 3/8-inch must be provided around all vertical obstructions including walls, permanent cabinets, pipes, etc. All perimeter expansion areas must be completely filled in with a water-repellent flexible silicone sealant. When applying sealant, it is helpful to first apply a strip of masking tape parallel to and approximately 1/32-inch from the edge of the flooring. Then fill the expansion area with sealant, remove any excess with a plastic scraper or putty knife, then remove the tape. Let dry for 24 hours before exposure to water. It is important that moisture does not enter the core of any cut planks.

### PIPES

In rows where there is a pipe, make sure the pipe falls exactly in line with the short side of two planks. Take a drill bit with the same diameter as the pipe plus 3/4-inch for the expansion. Click the planks together on the short side and drill a hole centered on the joint between the two planks. Now you can install the planks in the floor. See [Diagrams 6A-6B-6C](#).

### UNDER DOORFRAMES

When sawing the planks, ensure that the expansion joint under the door is at least 3/8-inch. If you cannot lift the plank, use an adapted tapping block or pull bar and hammer to tap the planks together with the planks flat on the floor. See [Diagrams 7A-7B](#).

### FINISHING

Remove all spacers.

Install the molding on the plastic membrane that runs up the wall from under the floor. Never attach the molding to the floor. This method allows the floor to expand and contract under the molding. See [Diagram 8A](#).

For a perfect finish around pipes, use rosettes or flexible silicone sealant.

In places where profiles or moldings cannot be placed, fill expansion gaps with flexible silicone sealant.

### PRECAUTIONS

Protect floors from furniture and chair legs with proper felt or rubber caps.

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Avoid bringing dirt, water, and grit indoors by providing a suitable solid-backed floor mat at any outside leading doors.

Furniture on casters/wheels must use soft, rubber wheels that are suitable for a laminate floor and/or use a suitable protective mat.

Ensure that humidity in the room is always between 35-65%. Use a humidifier or de-humidifier if necessary.

### **MAINTENANCE**

The smooth surface of your laminate means it never retains dirt or dust.

We recommend **FinishTEK™ Performance Accessories™** Hard Surface Cleaner or plain water to clean when damp maintenance is necessary.

Never use wax, polish, oils, soaps, detergents, shine enhancers/restorers, or varnish on the floor.

For dry maintenance, we recommend a dust mop or vacuum cleaner with soft bristle brush attachment only. No beater bars or spinning heads.

For slightly damp maintenance, we recommend an approved laminate cleaner which you spray directly and lightly on a duster. Never put moisture directly on the floor. Always wipe dry immediately until no more moisture is visible on the floor. The use of other cleaning products might damage your floor.

For bevel edge products, we strongly recommend dry cleaning only.

Do not use any type of cleaning machine such as steam cleaners, spray mops, power cleaners or buffers.

Wet maintenance will damage the floor. Remove any water immediately. Uniclic® laminate flooring is not suitable for use in damp spaces like saunas.

Remove stubborn stains carefully with acetone-based fingernail polish remover. Never use scouring products.

### **ATTN: INSTALLERS Caution—Wood Dust**

Sawing, sanding and machining wood products can produce wood dust. Airborne wood dust can cause respiratory, skin and eye irritation. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified wood dust as a nasal carcinogen in humans.

Precautionary Measures: Power tools should be equipped with a dust collector. If high dust levels are encountered use an appropriate NIOSH designated dust mask. Avoid dust contact with skin and eyes. First Aid Measures in case of irritations: In case of irritation flush eyes and skin with water for at least 15 minutes. For questions, please contact 1-888-387-9881, option 3.

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### **IMPORTANT HEALTH NOTICE FOR MINNESOTA RESIDENTS ONLY:**

THESE BUILDING MATERIALS EMIT FORMALDEHYDE. EYE, NOSE, AND THROAT IRRITATION, HEADACHE, NAUSEA AND A VARIETY OF ASTHMALIKE SYMPTOMS, INCLUDING SHORTNESS OF BREATH, HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS A RESULT OF FORMALDEHYDE EXPOSURE. ELDERLY PERSONS AND YOUNG CHILDREN, AS WELL AS ANYONE WITH A HISTORY OF ASTHMA, ALLERGIES, OR LUNG PROBLEMS, MAY BE AT GREATER RISK. RESEARCH IS CONTINUING ON THE POSSIBLE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE TO FORMALDEHYDE. REDUCED VENTILATION MAY ALLOW FORMALDEHYDE AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS TO ACCUMULATE IN THE INDOOR AIR. HIGH INDOOR TEMPERATURES AND HUMIDITY RAISE FORMALDEHYDE LEVELS. WHEN A HOME IS TO BE LOCATED IN AREAS SUBJECT TO EXTREME SUMMER TEMPERATURES, AN AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM CAN BE USED TO CONTROL INDOOR TEMPERATURE LEVELS. OTHER MEANS OF CONTROLLED MECHANICAL VENTILATION CAN BE USED TO REDUCE LEVELS OF FORMALDEHYDE AND OTHER INDOOR AIR CONTAMINANTS. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF FORMALDEHYDE, CONSULT YOUR DOCTOR OR CALL LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

THE PRODUCTS IN THIS BOX DO NOT CONTAIN ASBESTOS. WARNING! IF REMOVING EXISTING FLOORING, DO NOT MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC, "CUTBACK" ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES. PREVIOUSLY INSTALLED RESILIENT FLOORING MAY CONTAIN EITHER ASBESTOS FIBERS OR CRYSTALLINE SILICA.

Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the existing product is a non-asbestos containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern the removal and disposal of material. See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication "Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings" for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures.

For detailed product specifications, please contact Technical Services at 888-387-9881, option 3.

For service under this warranty, please notify your retailer in writing. Be sure to describe the specific problem and to include a copy of your invoice. Your retailer will take appropriate action, including notifying Chesapeake Flooring, if necessary.

Chesapeake Flooring | 6855 Deerpath Road | Elkridge, MD 21075 | [Chesapeakeflooring.com](http://Chesapeakeflooring.com)